

NEWS RELEASE

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Montgomery County Man Charged with Child Exploitation and Transportation of Child Pornography

Springfield, Illinois -- Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that a Montgomery county, Illinois man has been indicted today for interstate and foreign travel to engage in sex with a juvenile and with the interstate transportation of child pornography. The indictment alleges that in July of 2002, Elisha Pasdeck, age 31, of Nokomis, traveled to Canada where he engaged in sexual activity with a 12-year-old boy. The indictment also alleges that in May of 2005, Pasdeck transported child pornography to Canada.

In announcing the indictment, Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney, stated "The protection of all children from sexual predators is a top priority for the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of Illinois. Sexual predators know no boundaries and are willing to travel to other countries and anonymously use the Internet to lure and abuse vulnerable children. The United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of Illinois and its federal, state, local and international law enforcement partners will pursue these predators and bring them to justice wherever they go and wherever they are."

The indictment against Pasdeck was presented in federal court in Springfield this afternoon. A notice and summons directing Pasdeck to appear for his next court appearance will be issued by the court. Pasdeck was arrested and charged by criminal complaint on December 19, 2005, and is under order by U.S. Magistrate Judge Byron Cudmore to home confinement including electronic monitoring and under additional special restrictions including removal of Internet service from his residence, restricted telephone access, no contact with minors under age 18, and monitoring by U.S. Probation officers.

If convicted, the offense of traveling to engage in sex with a juvenile carries a maximum sentence of 15 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000. The transportation of child pornography carries a maximum sentence of 20 years and a fine of \$250,000.

The indictment is the result of an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement with assistance from the Nokomis Police Department and the Canadian Border Services Agency. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John Childress.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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